

January 28, 2004

### Akin Supports NASA Flexibility Act

Washington, DC- The U.S. House of Representatives approved a measure today that would allow NASA the flexibility to use more incentives in the hiring and retention of employees with qualifications critical to NASA related tasks.

"The measure is designed to allow NASA to hire and retain highly qualified engineers and scientists," said Akin, a member of the House Science Committee. "The President has outlined ambitious goals for NASA and has envisaged a mission that maintains America's leading role in the exploration of space."

"It is only right and prudent that we give NASA the resources and flexibility to find the best scientists and engineers indispensable to the implementation of the mission with which we are charging our space agency," said Akin. "NASA must build a competent workforce to carry out these programs which are of incalculable value to our nation, both in terms of technological advancement and national pride."